WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Ancillary tool for positioning an acetabular prosthesis in an anatomical or prosthetic cavity of a patient's hip, comprising

- a handle for manipulating the acetabulum provided, in its distal part, with a head for gripping the acetabulum and, in its proximal part, with a surface for application of a force of impaction, and

- at least one added endpiece adapted to be removably connected to the distal end of the handle and defining both a face for wedging the acetabulum and an opposite face for interaction of the endpiece with the head of the handle, wherein the endpiece comprises a supple ring radially deformable with respect to the longitudinal axis of the endpiece, on which are formed the wedging and interaction faces.

2. The tool of Claim 1, wherein the ring is radially deformable over substantially the whole of its periphery.

3. The tool of Claim 1, wherein the face of the endpiece intended for wedging the acetabulum is constituted by substantially the whole outer face of the ring.

4. The tool of Claim 1, wherein the endpiece comprises both a supple part including the deformable ring and a rigid part fast with the supple part and provided with means for removable connection to the distal end of the handle.

5. The tool of Claim 4, wherein the rigid part of the endpiece is constituted by a metallic insert fixed to the supple part.

6. The tool of Claim 4, wherein the deformable ring is elastically connected to a base of the supple part.

7. The tool of Claim 1, wherein the deformable ring comprises a plurality of petals, the wedging and interaction faces being respectively constituted by the outer and inner surfaces of each of these petals.

8. The tool of Claim 4, wherein the rigid part of the endpiece defines a stop surface, in the longitudinal direction of the handle, for the head of the handle.

9. The tool of Claim 4, wherein the supple part of the endpiece presents at least one surface for transmission of the force of impaction between the handle and the acetabulum.

10. The tool of Claim 1, wherein the head of the handle defines a ramp surface adapted to cooperate with the interaction face of the endpiece.

11. The tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a rigid rod on which the head is movably mounted, as well as means for driving the head with respect to the rod in a movement of translation in the longitudinal direction of the rod.

12. The tool of Claim 11, wherein the handle comprises a sleeve disposed coaxially to the rod and at the distal end of which the head is rigidly fixed, and the means for driving the head with respect to the rod comprise a grip screwed on the rod and connected in translation with the sleeve, this sleeve being immobilized in rotation with respect to the rod.

13. The tool of Claim 12, wherein a ring is axially interposed between the sleeve and the screwed grip.

14. Method for positioning an acetabular prosthesis in an anatomical or prosthetic cavity of a patient's hip, comprising the steps of :

- using, on the one hand, a handle for manipulating the acetabulum, provided, in its distal part, with a head for gripping the acetabulum and, at its proximal end, with a surface for application of a force of impaction, and, on the other hand, a series of endpieces of different dimensions and/or geometry, each comprising a supple ring radially deformable with respect to the longitudinal

axis of the endpiece, on which are formed both a face for wedging the acetabulum and an opposite face for interaction of the endpiece with the head of the handle,

- selecting, from the series of endpieces, an endpiece of which the wedging face is substantially complementary of the inner wall of the acetabulum to be positioned,

- connecting the endpiece to the distal end of the handle,

- placing the endpiece in the acetabulum,

- placing the endpiece in engagement by the head of the handle so as to provoke radial deformation of the ring and consequently grip of the acetabulum by the endpiece,

- positioning the acetabulum in the cavity of the patient's hip,

- applying a force of impaction on the corresponding surface of the handle,

- disengaging the head from the endpiece, and

- withdrawing the endpiece from the positioned acetabulum.